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John P. Woodbury

A SKETCH OF

JOHN PAGE WOODBURY

WITH HIS

GENEALOGY FROM JOHN WOODBURY

BY

C. J. H. WOODBURY, A. M., Sc. D.

FROM THE REGISTER OF THE LYNN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR 1910

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JOHN PAGE WOODBURY

John Page Woodbury was born in Atkinson, N. H., ay 24, 1827, and died at his residence 348 Common- ealth Avenue, Boston, Mass., June 17, 1910. He was e only son of Rev. John and Myra Page Woodbury, and direct descendant of John Woodbury, the Old Planter.

John P. Woodbury was educated in the common chools and the Hancock, N. H., Literary and Scientific nstitution after which he became connected with the Keene, N. H., Sentinel where he also learned the printing business and later went to Bangor, Me., where three years were spent in learning the carpenter's trade, after which he came to Lynn and worked in the cabinet shop and furniture store of his uncle Seth Dodge Woodbury which occupied or many years the site of the station of the Boston, Revere Beach & Lynn Railroad on Market Street.

In 1849, he entered the service of his uncle Joseph Page Woodbury of East Boston, the inventor of the pres- ure bar for rendering wood planing machines practical all varieties of lumber. In this position, he traveled to rious places, as far west as St. Louis and was for six onths in Washington in connection with some extensions patents during the year 1850, where he heard famous cussions by the contending leaders of the North and uth which preceded the Civil War.

Returning to Lynn he became the partner of his uncle Jeptha Porter Woodbury in the lumber wharf and carpenter shop at the foot of Commercial Street, on the site now occupied by the Hoag and Walden Shoe factories. In this shop many novelties in carpentering had been introduced by his uncle, it was one of the earlier carpenter shops to use a steam engine, it was the first to use a Woodworth wood-planing machine, and in place of confining the work to those who had served apprenticeships, in learning the carpenter's trade, subdivided labor was believed to have been first developed here by men who were trained in the skillful use of the various wood-working machines.

In 1854 the firm was dissolved, the senior partner retiring from active business and John P. Woodbury established a real estate and insurance office, the first in the city, and which had become the largest in the state outside of Boston at the time of his retirement in 1867 and which has been continued to this date by his successors. After this he did not engage in active business except to hold the Presidency of the Exchange Insurance Company for about eighteen months.

Immediately after his retirement, he lived in Paris for nearly a year and later in life resided in Boston during the winter and in Lynn during the summer, except so far as this arrangement was modified by travel, of which he was very fond. His most recreative pursuit was fishing in the Maine forest, which he continued to the last. At the age of eighty years he made an extensive trip to Europe. He did not hold any public office except membership in the Common Council, but was organizer and treasurer of several corporations owning buildings and developing real estate in the business portion of Lynn. He was the orig-

inator of Central Avenue as an essential route for travel from Central Station to the end of the Common, and in order to make this possible, purchased the principal part of the land along this route and the same may be said of the extension of Munroe Street from Washington Street to Central Avenue.

He was affiliated with the Second Congregational (Unitarian) Church and was for many years one of the Board of Trustees. He was a charter member and Vice-President of the Lynn Historical Society, and a member of the Lynn Hospital Corporation, the Boston Art Club, Club of Odd Volumes, Iconographic Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Bostonian Society, Essex Institute and the Old Planters Society of Salem, Grolier Club and Iconophile Society of New York, Rowfant Club of Cleveland and the Caxton Club of Chicago.

He was married September 22, 1850, to Sarah Elizabeth Silsbee who was born in Nahant, the daughter of Nathan Silsbee and descendant of one of the earliest settlers of Lynn. She was born September 22, 1828, and died in Boston, January 1, 1904. He is survived by two children Mrs. Marcia E. Parsons and John Woodbury, Counsellor-at-law, and Secretary of the Metropolitan Park Commission.

The forty-three years of his life after retirement from active business were devoted to the exercise of his taste in books. He had one of the choicest private libraries in Boston and a large collection of prints, book plates and other forms of engraving and was recognized as an authority upon all matters pertaining to rare books.

His genealogy is as follows :—

Genealogy of John Page Woodbury

I. John Woodbury was born in Somersetshire, England, about 1579, and embarked from Weymouth, England, as one of the leaders of the Dorchester Company which arrived at Stage Fort, now Gloucester, Mass., in February or March, 1623-24. The site of this colony is marked by a bronze memorial tablet, said to be the largest in this country, on one of the ledges in the park at the westerly side of the entrance to Gloucester Harbor. About 1626, this colony moved to Nahumkeik, now Salem, Mass.

His first wife was Joanna Humphrey whom he married at Burlescombe, England, June 21, 1596, by whom he had a son, Humphrey, who came to Salem in 1628. The place and date of her birth are unknown, but believed to be at Budleigh, England, where the records of that period have been so impaired by mildew as to be illegible. John Woodbury married, second, Agnes (or Anis) Derby, widow of John Derby, before August, 1629, at which date her name appears among the original members of the church organized at Salem, where she died February 14, 1672.

After the arrival of John Endicott as the head of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay with an interfering charter and a large number, there was a conflict of authority, known as "ye jarre," which resulted in the continuation of Endicott as Governor, and the leaders of the Dorchester Company as a Council, and the signature of John Woodbury follows that of Endicott in subsequent official documents. John Woodbury continued to be prominent in official life until his death in 1641. In September, 1627, he sailed in an armed fishing vessel from the Isles of Shoals, as the first envoy from this country, and he returned from England in June, 1628, the favorable result of his labors being the Charter granted May 4, 1629 under which the Colony of Massachusetts Bay was governed for 55

years. He was chosen Lord High Constable at Salem, September 28, 1630, the only one holding that office, and was the first officer ever elected in America. He took his oath as Freeman, May 18, 1631, at the time when the first Freemen were qualified. He was Deputy from 1635–1639, and as such in 1636 when Captain Endicott, on behalf of Colonel John Humphrey presented a motion to the General Court to set off some lands on the Marblehead side of Forest River for the erection of a college, which was the precursor of Harvard University, John Woodbury was chosen one of the committee of six appointed to view the land. He was Rater (or assessor) of Salem 1639–1640, Treasurer of Salem 1640–1641, Selectman 1636 until his death in 1641. As one of the Council of the Governor, he was the Surveyor of the Colony and laid out the boundaries of the early towns, among them being the boundary between Lynn and Salem 13 March, 1638, and Abram Doolittle laid out the southern boundary at what is now the line between Saugus and Revere, many years later. From his selection for this service, it is believed that he must have been a master mariner, as it is not known that there were any of other vocations in the Colony skilled in angles and their calculations.

The name is spelled Wodeberie in the Domesday Book (1086) and has been recorded with fifty-two different methods of spelling. Knight's fees have been recorded for generations, and four coats of arms granted, the earliest being in 1325, and the crest in 1484, but the family were entirely of the Saxon yeomanry, without Norman blood or any of the titles of nobility.

Children of JOHN:

i. HUMPHREY, (by first wife), b. Budleigh, Eng., 1609. Came to New England June 1628. Will proved 11 Oct. 1686; m. Elizabeth ———; chosen Deacon 24 Dec. 1679.

ii. John (called Senior) (by second wife) married Elizabeth ——.
iii. HANNAH, baptized 25 Dec. 1636; m. 25 April 1658, CORNELIUS BAKER; d. 1 Sept. 1714.
iv. ABIGAIL, baptized 12 Nov. 1637; m. 12 Oct. 1657, JOHN HILL.
v. PETER, b. 19 June 1640. (See forward.)

2. PETER[2] WOODBURY (*John*[1]), b. 19 June 1640 at Salem. died 5 July 1704; married first, Sept. 1665, ABIGAIL BATCHELDER, born 12 Feb. 1642; died —— 1666; married second, July 1667, SARAH DODGE, baptized 1644; died 19 Sept. 1726; made Freeman 27 April 1668; Selectman 1675-84; Deacon 20 Aug. 1686; Lieutenant 1689; Deputy 1689-92; Assessor 1694. Slaves in inventory of estate.

Children:

i. PETER, b. 12 Dec. 1666. (See forward.)
ii. SARAH, b. 12 Dec. 1668; m. JONATHAN RAYMOND, b. 25 Apr. 1666.
iii. ABIGAIL, b. 13 Apr. 1671; m. —— LAMPSON.
iv. ANNA, b. 24 May 1674; d. —— 1769; m. JOHN HERRICK.
v. MARTHA, baptized 27 May 1677; m. 31 Mar. 1693, ICHABOD BROWN.
vi. JERUSHA, baptized 8 Feb. 1680; m. 28 Mar. 1698, GEORGE RAYMOND.
vii. JOSIAH, b. 5 June 1682; d. 26 July 1746; m. 9 Apr. 1708, LYDIA HERRICK. On Louisburg Expedition.
viii. REBECCA, b. 25 Dec. 1684; d. before 1702; m. SAMUEL CORNING.
ix. PRISCILLA, b. 23 June 1687; m. 15 Jan. 1706, RICHARD OBER.

3. PETER[3] WOODBURY (*Peter*,[2] *John*[1]), born 12 Dec. 1666; died 8 Jan. 1706-07; married 15 Nov. 1692, MARY DODGE (widow), born 21 Apr. 1673; died 20 Nov. 1763; elected Deacon 26 Oct. 1704. Slaves mentioned in will.

Children:

i. MARK, b. 31 Oct. 1693; d. 17 Dec. 1693.
ii. ABIGAIL, b. 14 Sept. 1694; m. 28 Dec. 1715, JONATHAN CONANT.
iii. JOSEPH, b. 29 Sept. 1696; d. 12 June 1720.

iv. BENJAMIN, b 18 Apr. 1699; m. 14 Dec. 1721, RUTH CONANT, b. 18 Nov. 1702. Was on Louisburg Expedition.
v. MARY, b. 2 Aug. 1703; m (1) 13 May 1719, JOSIAH TRASK; m. (2) 21 June 1727, THOMAS COX.
vi. PETER, b. 20 June 1705. (See forward.)
vii. REBECCA, b. 1 June 1707; m. ——— 1728, JOSIAH LOVELL.
viii. MARCY (or Mercy) was thirty-nine inches in height.

4. PETER[4] WOODBURY (*Peter*,[3] *Peter*,[2] *John*[1]), born 20 June 1705; died 14 May 1775; married 19 Mar. 1730, HANNAH BATCHELDER, born 1 May 1709; died 21 Nov. 1788. In French and Indian War, Corporal in Col. Plaisted's regiment in Lake George campaign, and was wounded five times at storming of Quebec; Cavalry Sargeant at battle of Lexington where he met the cause of his death from exhaustion.

Children:

i. PETER, b. 13 Mar. 1732; d. 5 Dec. 1814.
ii. JAMES, b. 4 June 1738; d. 5 Mar. 1823; m. 5 Nov. 1761, HANNAH TRASKE. In French and Indian war. Wounded on plains of Abraham at storming of Quebec, also in Revolution.
iii. JOSEPH, b. 21 Sept. 1741. (See forward.)
iv. JOHN, b. 8 Nov. 1743; d. 3 Sept. 1813; m. 8 Mar. 1767 HANNAH RAYMOND. Was Captain in the Revolution.

5. JOSEPH[5] WOODBURY (*Peter*,[4] *Peter*,[3] *Peter*,[2] *John*[1]), born 21 Sept. 1741; died 3 Feb. 1816; married first, 6 May 1766, HULDAH PUTNAM, born 1746, died 8 June 1773; married second, 7 Mar. 1775, ABIEL PORTER, born 3 Jan. 1739-40, died —— 1833. Was Constable of Beverly 1775, and on Committee of Safety. Was a soldier in the Revolution.

Children:

i. HULDAH.
ii. NANCY, m. NATHANIEL PIERCE.
iii. ABIEL, (by second wife) m. 6 Apr. 1799, JOSHUA DODGE.
iv. JOSEPH, b. 1 May 1778; d. May 1856; m. LAVINIA WEBBER.
v. JOHN, b. 21 Sept. 1780. (See forward.)

vi. RELIEF, b. 6 Aug. 1782; d. 5 Dec. 1874; m. 10 Mar. 1811, JOSEPH WHITTAKER.

vii. PORTER, b. 13 May 1785; d. 9 Mar. 1866. (Unmarried.)

6. JOHN[6] WOODBURY (*Joseph*,[5] *Peter*,[4] *Peter*,[3] *Peter*,[2] *John*[1]), born Stirling 21 Sept. 1780, died Boston 21 Jan. 1876; married 14 Sept. 1802 SARAH ALLEN, born 16 Oct. 1781, died 6 May 1835.

During war of 1812 was engaged at Charlestown Navy Yard in converting merchantmen into letters of marque. Was originator of present method of framing wood buildings known as the "square rule."

Children:

i. JOHN, b. 9 Jan. 1803. (See forward.)

ii. SARAH, b. 18 Apr. 1804; d. 20 Sept. 1805.

iii. ISAAC ALLEN, b. 7 Sept. 1806; d. 6 June 1838: m. JULIA ANN WALKER, b. 17 Apr. 1810.

iv. JEPTHA PORTER, b. 27 Sept. 1808; d. 12 Aug. 1894; m. 26 Mar. 1834, MARY ADAMS HILL, b. 21 Apr. 1812: d. 16 Mar. 1889.

v. SARAH ALLEN, b. 8. July 1811; d. 12 Mar. 1871; m. (1) 1 June 1836, CHARLES H. WIGGINS; d. 16 Dec. 1838; (2) 15 Dec. 1844, TIMOTHY ALLEY, 3rd; b. 30 Apr. 1793; d. 23 Mar. 1858; (3) 20 Nov. 1864, GEORGE W. DAVIS; d. 12 Mar. 1871.

vi. SETH DODGE, b. 8 Nov. 1813; d. 13 Apr. 1892; m. 25 Oct. 1835, HANNAH D. GALLOUPE, b. 10 Oct. 1815: d. 12 July 1903.

vii. JOSEPH PAGE, b. 29 Mar. 1816; d. 25 Apr. 1875; m. (1) 31 May 1836, SUSAN WYMAN WORTHEN, b. 1 Nov. 1816: d. 15 Dec. 1842; m. (2) 20 Mar. 1843, HARRIET ELIZABETH BURY MORONG, b. 10 Feb. 1818; d. 21 April 1880.

viii. AUGUSTUS LEE, b. 18 June 1818; d. 5 Oct. 1818.

ix. JAMES ATKINS, b. 1 Sept. 1819: d. 3 Dec. 1904; m. 21 Apr. 1843, NANCY DIMMOCK SMALL, b. 20 Dec. 1823: d. 26 Apr. 1893.

x. ANGELINE ELIZABETH, b. 15 May 1822; m. 17 Aug. 1842, ANDREW MACK HAINES, b. 1 Jan. 1820: d. 10 Nov. 1898.

xi. LORETE RELIEF, b. 8 Sept. 1824; d. Feb. 1844.

7. JOHN[7] WOODBURY, REV. (*John*,[6] *Joseph*,[5] *Peter*,[4] *Peter*,[3] *Peter*,[2] *John*[1]), born 9 Jan. 1803, died 27

Aug. 1858; married 1826 MYRA PAGE, born 11 Mar. 1804, died 29 Mar. 1888. A Baptist clergyman.

Children:

i. JOHN PAGE WOODBURY, b. 24 May 1827. (See forward.)

ii. MARIA JOSEPHINE, b. 31 July 1835; d. 25 Jan. 1908; m. 30 Sept. 1852, MATTHEW PLUMSTEAD, b. 11 Nov. 1827; d. 13 Sept. 1894.

iii Sarah Adelaide, b May 1843; d. 22 Oct, 1845.

8. JOHN PAGE[8] WOODBURY (*John*,[7] *John*,[6] *Joseph*,[5] *Peter*,[4] *Peter*,[3] *Peter*,[2] *John*[1]), born 24 May 1827, died 17 June 1910; married 22 Sept. 1850, SARAH ELIZABETH SILSBEE, born 22 Sept. 1828; died 1 Jan. 1904.

Children:

i. MARCIA EOLA.

ii. JOHN.